

## Bones of Warriors Who Fell in Fierce Battle

Remarkable Collection Stored in Old English Church—  
Skulls of Men Slain in Conflict Between Britons and  
Saxons Many Centuries Ago.

(Special Correspondence.)



INTENSE interest is being evinced in the recent decision to which the vicar of St. Leonard's church at Hythe, England, has arrived in regard to the collection of human bones in the crypt of that church. Beneath the high altar there is deposited a vast accumulation of human remains. The walls on either side are lined with skulls, some 600 in all, arranged in ledges, extending almost to the beautiful groined ceiling. Nearly stacked on the floor at the back is a pile of bones about seventy-five feet in length, eight feet in height and over six feet deep. These are probably the remains of 7,000 people.

It is an historical fact that endeavors have been made for the past two or three hundred years to find something about these curious relics of past days.

It is evident from a work written by Rev. J. Bromie Chertton about two centuries ago, that he made more than one effort to gain some information from the townspeople.

In his book he says: "How or by what means they were brought to this place the townsmen are altogether ignorant and can find no account of the matter." His conjecture that they are remains of some 240 Frenchmen who met their death in a battle at Hythe near the end of the thirteenth century Herbert Dale, the present rector of St. Leonard's, and a historian and antiquarian of note, has proved to be far from correct.

A very careful examination was made of the remains by widely known ethnologists and the result of their investigation fitted with Mr. Dale's own conclusions, that the bones belonged to Celts and Goths living about 466.

It also confirmed the statement in the Physiology of Dr. Walker, the distinguished anatomist, who was of the firm opinion that the bones belong to the Britons and Saxons, as some were long and narrow and others short and broad. Possibly a few which did not resemble these first two were Roman skulls.

The vicar of St. Leonard's during the course of his investigation gave much credence to the conjectures of the historian Hasted.

He tells how Vortimer, a prince of the Britons, fought and slew an army of Saxons on the seashore not far from Folkestone. Folkestone, which is not far from Hythe, has similar relics piled in the vault of its church, and this fact adds weight to Mr. Dale's assertions that the whitened bones were gathered from the battlefield of the Saxons.

With such material in hand Mr. Hale set to work and has just given out his recently evolved theory as to the people whom these remains represent and the circumstances of their being in the crypt.

Long ago, in the year A. D. 466, the English coast was inhabited by the Britons who were constantly suffering from invasions by the Saxon pirates. Hythe was particularly the scene of bloody encounters between the two races.

The formation of the skulls shows distinct characteristics of the two races, though in about four cases the

hose of women and children has been brought forward by some historians as proving that the bones are not the remains of those killed in battle, but Mr. Dale shows that the Britons were defending their homes from the Saxon invaders. The mark of battle and the weapons of ancient Britons are left in many a skull; in some cases they are cleft almost from the top to the base. It is Mr. Dale's supposition that the bodies of the slain were left on the field of battle and years afterward



Interior of St. Leonard's. the skulls, which are bleached by the sun and many rains, were gathered up by the monks and piled indiscriminately together in a stone vault.

Formerly there were four other churches in Hythe, and in the vault of one of these the skulls and bones were stacked.

St. Leonard's was not built until the end of the thirteenth century. Previous to that three of the four churches were gradually destroyed and the bones removed from one church to the other.

In the reign of Richard II, after the completion of St. Leonard's, a terrible fire swept the town and the last of the four ancient churches perished in the flames. St. Leonard's alone survived the disaster, and in its crypt the bones and skulls of the ancient warriors were stored.

In the hope of discovering additional evidence Mr. Dale had the bones re-stacked and a few pieces of Roman-Saxon pottery were found, but nothing of greater importance.

The majority of the skulls still have teeth in their jaws. There is not a decayed one among them and though some of them are worn smooth with age and use, they are perfect.

Summing up briefly the scientific evidence which Mr. Dale has gathered he is of the opinion that it proves:

1. That the bones in the crypt of Hythe church are almost all those of men in the prime of life.

2. That in all probability they were, if buried at all, buried in a heap after long exposure in the open air.

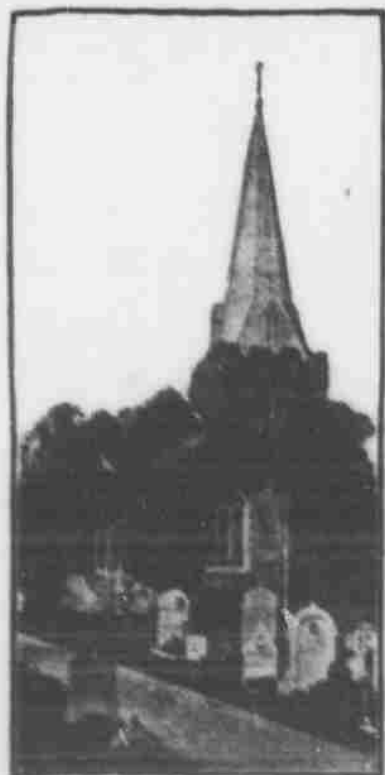
3. That the skulls belong, for the most part to two distinct races of the human family, the Celtic and the Saxon, while there is reason to think that two are the form of Roman skulls, and other two of the form of Laps or Danish skulls.

4. That there are distinct incisions, as of some sharp instrument on many of the skulls. One skull was especially pointed out by a number of medical men, who, having microscopically examined it, said that the man must have lived for several weeks after having received the wound, for the osseous matter had begun to form beneath.

The careful examination of the skulls and bones would then seem in favor of the opinion that they are the remains of men slain in battle—such a battle as that fought between the Britons and Saxons on the English coast in the year 466. We might reasonably expect, if this be so, to find among the skulls those of some Romans who still lingered in the neighborhood of Castrum at Lynsop, and the Laps may well have come over with the Saxons.

Confirmation of this opinion is added by the discovery on the restacking of the bones of remains of Roman-Saxon pottery.

The tomb of these skulls and bones is one of the most beautiful churches in England, built in the Gothic style, with exquisite and well-preserved carvings and lofty groined roofs. The windows are magnificent examples of medieval art, as the magnificent English doors are of medieval architecture. The refined beauty of the Gothic architecture is a strange tomb for the wild and untrained men whose bones lie beneath.



St. Leonard's Church. skulls evidently belonged to Danes and Romans, the latter coming over with the Saxons, and the Romans having lingered near the camp at Lynsop. The fact that among the bones were

## CAUGHT BY THE GRIP. RELEASED BY PE-RU-NA.

Congressman Geo. H. White's Case.  
A Noted Sculptress Cured.



The world  
of medicine  
recognizes  
Grip as epi-  
demic ca-  
tarrh.--  
Medical Talk.

A GRIPPE is epidemic catarrh. It spares no class or nationality. The cultured and the ignorant, the aristocrat and the pauper, the masses and the classes are alike subject to la grippe. None are exempt—all are liable. Have you the grip? Or, rather, has the grip got you? Grip is well named. The original French term, la grippe, has been shortened by the busy Ameri-

can to read "grip." Without intending to do so a new word has been coined that exactly describes the case. As if some hideous giant with awful GRIP had clutched us in its fatal clasp. Men, women, children, whole towns and cities are caught in the baneful grip of a terrible monster.

Pe-Ru-na for Grip.  
Mrs. Theophile Schmitt, wife of the Ex-Secretary of the German Consulate,

writes the following letter from 3417 Wabash avenue, Chicago, Ill.:

"I suffered this winter with a severe attack of la grippe. After using three bottles of Peruna I found the grip had disappeared."—Mrs. T. Schmitt.

Mrs. Celeste Covell writes from 219 N. avenue, Aurora, Ill.:

"Only those who have suffered with la grippe and been cured can appreciate how grateful I feel that such a splendid medicine as Peruna has been placed at the door of every suffering person."—Mrs. C. Covell.

Noted Sculptress Cured of Grip.

Mrs. M. C. Cooper, of the Royal Academy of Arts, of London, England, now residing in Washington, D. C., is one of the greatest living sculptors and painters of the world. She says:

"I take pleasure in recommending Peruna for catarrh and la grippe. I have suffered for months, and after the use of one bottle of Peruna I am entirely well."—Mrs. M. C. Cooper.

D. L. Wallace, a charter member of the International Barber's Union, writes from 15 Western avenue, Minneapolis, Minn.:

"Following a severe attack of la grippe I seemed to be affected badly all over.

"One of my customers who was greatly helped by Peruna advised me to try it, and I procured a bottle the same day. Now my head is clear, my nerves are steady, I enjoy food and rest well. Peruna has been worth a dollar a dose to me."—D. L. Wallace.

Lieutenant Clarice Hunt, of the Salt Lake City Barracks of the Salvation Army, writes from Ogden, Utah:

"Two months ago I was suffering with severe cold that I could hardly speak.

"Our captain advised me to try Peruna and procured a bottle for me, and truly it worked wonders. Within two weeks I was entirely well."—Clarice Hunt.

Congressman White's Letter.

Tarboro, N. C.

Gentlemen:—I am more than satisfied with Peruna and find it to be an excellent remedy for the grip and catarrh. I have used it in my family and they all join me in recommending it as an excellent remedy."—George H. White, Member of Congress.

Mrs. T. W. Collins, Treasurer Independent Order of Good Templars, of Everett, Wash., writes:

"After having a severe attack of la grippe I continued in a feeble condition even after the doctors called me cured. My blood seemed poisoned. Peruna cured me."—Mrs. T. W. Collins.

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